

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 202691

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 202691 (REPEAT OF LISBON 4886 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BONN LONDON MADRID MOSCOW PARIS STOCKHOLM NATO DIA AND USCINCEUR

26 AUG 75) ACTION SECRETARY 26 AUG 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 202691 TOSEC 100168

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4886 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
LONDON MADRID MOSCOW PARIS STOCKHOLM NATO DIA USCINCEUR DTD
26 AUG 75

QUOTE:

S E C R E T LISBON 4886

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL CRISIS

REF: FBIS LONDON 260036Z AUG 75 (REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
ANNOUNCEMENT)

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT: MEETING UNTIL LATE INTO
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THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 25-26, THE PRESIDENT, THE DIRECTORY, AND

THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MINUS THE MELO ANTUNES "NINE" REACHED THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS (REFTEL):

--THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BE RESTRUCTURED AT A MEETING OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE CALLED NEXT WEEK;

--THE J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL IT HAS BEEN RESTRUCTURED:

--BRIG. EURICO CORVACHO WILL BE REINSTATED AS COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGION BASED IN OPORTO.

2. COMMENT: THE RC ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PUSHING AND PULLING THAT HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS. ON THE ONE HAND,THE ANTUNES GROUP WILL BE PLEASED BY THE SUSPENSION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ONE OF ITS MOST DANGEROUS ENEMIES WITHIN THE MILITARY--J-5, ON THE OTHER HAND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE RC BY THE LEFT DOMINATED ARMED FORCES ASSEMBLY IS LIKELY TO BE DANGEROUS IF NOT FATAL TO THE PLANS OF THE ANTUNES GROUP. THE RESTORATION OF THE LEFT-LINING CORVACHO IS A MORE AMBIGUOUS DEVELOPMENT. AT LEAST ONE OF OUR SOURCES IN THE ANTUNES CAMP BELIEVES THAT CORVACHO IS NOT BEYOND REDEMPTION IF THE INFLUENCE OF HIS ALLEGEDLY COMMUNIST WIFE CAN BE NEUTRALIZED.

3. TH RC WITHOUT THE "NINE" IS A FORUM WEIGHTED AGAINST THE ANTUNES GROUP AND LIKELY TO COME OUT WITH DECISIONS UNFAVORABLE TO THEM. THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE MUST BE INTERPRETED AS A NET MINUS FOR THE ANTUNES FORCES, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SURVIVED IN OFFICE FOR ANOTHER DAY. TIME IS NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE ANTUNES GROUP AND IF THE RC IS RESTRUCTURED BY THE ASSEMBLY, THE ANTUNES SUPPORTERS COULD BE PUSHED ENTIRELY OUT OF THE POWER STRUCTURE.

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